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**Your Taxes And Mine---**

This is the third of a series of 12 articles on tax problems affecting every person in the Nation, written for the AFL Weekly News Service by Arthur A. Elder, tax consultant of the AFL's Tax Committee and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

**A LIMIT ON INCOME TAXES?**  
By Arthur A. Elder

A proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution is going the rounds of the state legislatures. It calls for a limit of 25 per cent on the income tax that the federal government may collect from any individual.

This is called "tax relief." For whom is it relief? Obviously, only for the taxpayers in the upper income brackets. When the taxes in the upper brackets are cut so sharply, the only way to make up for the loss is to put even more of the burden on the lower income groups.

This proposal, then, is designed to shift the burden from the upper to the lower brackets.

It is in direct violation of the well-established tax policy that rates should be established according to ability to pay.

The state legislatures that are approving this proposal are riding for an awful fall. They seem to have forgotten the depression days when they were begging the federal government for more and more financial aid. If those days return, the federal government will have to be able to levy high income taxes if it is to meet the states' needs.

Not only are they helping cut off a source of help they will probably need in the future, but they are helping produce the depression that will make that need acute.

When the people in the upper brackets are relieved of taxes, that fact does not increase the amount of goods and services they buy. But when those in the lower brackets have to pay higher taxes, they can't buy as many goods and services as before, and certainly not as many as they need. That means that higher taxes in the lower brackets reduce production and start the nation toward unemployment and depression.

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